

Child Welfare League of America, Inc.

130 East Twenty-second Street, New York City

Bulletin

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FEBRUARY-MARCH, 1932

"The legend of the mother, which in varying form almost every country possesses, who to save her child from the bird of prey, climbs where the foot of the bravest and strongest could never tread, to recover it, is universal because it outlines the profound truth recognized everywhere that an almighty affection and the instinct for even self-immolation in the serving of others is not merely one of the highest but one of the strongest forces modifying human life."

—From *Man to Man* by OLIVE SCHREINER

LEAGUE'S PHILADELPHIA PROGRAM

The meetings of the Child Welfare League of America to be held at the time of the National Conference of Social Work in Philadelphia, May 15-21, contain several joint sessions. These joint sessions are of value especially because they bring together groups sharing common interests which are particularly important at this time.

In addition to the meetings listed in the following program, members of the League will be especially welcome at a luncheon meeting of the Inter-City Conference on Illegitimacy on Friday, May 20th, at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel.

The sessions of the Children's Division of the National Conference and other important meetings will be announced in detail in the May issue of the bulletin of the National Conference of Social Work.

The members of the committee responsible for the program of the League are: Henry W. Thurston, Chairman, Susan K. Gillean, Ethel Verry, Mrs. Robert Lee Duckworth, Mary Irene Atkinson, Rev. M. F. McEvoy, and Louise Drury. The program is as follows:

Monday, May 16, 3 p. m.

Presiding: Mrs. Edith M. H. Baylor, Director of Children's Work, Simmons College School of Social Work, Boston

Social Case Work Technique in the Care of Children Away from Their Own Homes

1. Evaluation of Parents as Parents: The Factors Which Decide the Separation of Children from Parents

—Dorothy Hutchinson, Supervisor of Boarding Homes, Foster Home Dept., Children's Aid Society, New York

2. Interaction of Parent, Child, Foster Parent and Social Worker During Child's Care Away from His Own Home

—Bessie Trout, Supervisor of Intake, Foster Home Dept., Children's Aid Society, New York

Discussion Leader: Ethel Copelan, Supervisor, Foster Home Dept., Juvenile Aid Society, Philadelphia

Tuesday, May 17, 3 p. m. Group Discussions

1. Executives of Children's Aid Organizations
Leader: Herschel Alt, General Secretary, St. Louis Children's Aid Society
2. Executives of Child-Caring Institutions
Leader: Ethel Verry, Superintendent, Chicago Orphan Asylum
3. Workers in State Child Welfare Departments
Leader: Mary Irene Atkinson, Superintendent, Division of Charities, Ohio Department of Public Welfare
4. Case Supervisors of Child-Caring Organizations
Leader: Alice Haines, Case Supervisor, Children's Bureau, New Orleans
5. Case Workers in Child-Caring Organizations
Leader: To be announced

6 p. m. Dinner (attendance limited) for Executives of Member Agencies of the Child Welfare League of America

Presiding: Cheney C. Jones, President

Wednesday, May 18, 1 p. m.

Presiding: Ruth Taylor, Commissioner of Public Welfare, Westchester County, New York

Some Changes in the Family that Are Significant to Child Welfare Work

Speaker: Ernest W. Burgess, Department of Sociology, University of Chicago

Thursday, May 19, 3 p. m.

Sex Education for the Adolescent from the Standpoint of the Psychologist, Parent and Teacher (Joint session with Division I-Children and the Girls' Protective Council)

6 p. m. Dinner—Annual Meeting

President's Address

Cheney C. Jones, Superintendent, New England Home for Little Wanderers, Boston

Report of the Executive Director

C. C. Carstens, Child Welfare League of America

What Is Child Labor to You?

Courtenay Dinwiddie, General Secretary, National Child Labor Committee, New York

Friday, May 20, 3 p. m.

(Joint session with the National Federation of Day Nurseries)

Headquarters of the League will be at the Hotel Benjamin Franklin.

THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA DECENTRALIZES ITS HOMEFINDING SERVICE

In the course of writing a paper on the decentralized plan of homefinding as it exists in our agency, we have grown more conscious of its development and reason for being. In its inception it had been a development so gradual in philosophy, so integrally a part of our need and our ability to meet it at any one time that we were moving into our course of action without being aware of any conviction for it. We only knew that the earlier plan had not worked for us and perforce we had evolved, painfully enough, something that worked better. It was encouraging that from the start the new plan worked more smoothly than did the old. Consider, therefore, the comfort it is to us to be able to study and locate, even at this late date, an underlying principle and reason for the success of the new plan.

The change from a centralized plan of homefinding was made by us in two steps: 1. The elimination of a separate homefinding department whose workers had devoted full time to the investigation of prospective foster homes. (At this stage one worker was retained to receive all first applications at the office and she referred the homes accepted for further study to the workers according to their districts.) 2. Decentralization was completed when one worker no longer took all application interviews at the office, but ten of the case working staff divided the work among them.

The workers in our foster home department handle all the agency's work relating thereto: the supervision of children, the study of new homes and placement of children in these homes. Because our agency is a large one, there is an opportunity to district these workers and this probably aids in the functioning of a decentralized plan of homefinding. The workers in the reception department do the investigating work preceding the acceptance of a child into care and carry the supervision of that child after he is in care and during his temporary foster home placement.

The former centralized plan of homefinding had always had its dissatisfactions. There was a lack of sympathy and understanding existing on the part of the workers in each department. To the homefinding worker there was an unreality about the child, due to her separation from him. As one of the workers from our former homefinding department put it, they felt as if the supervising end of the job was a war in a foreign country. The supervising worker on her part could demand a foster home with little or no appreciation of the difficulty of finding such a home, or of the necessity and success with which a compromise in demands might be made.

With each new placement plan two workers were doing the preparatory work. The homefinder made part of the plan; the supervisor of the child, the rest. Neither person was entirely responsible. Each of them was allowed by her function to do the thinking up to a certain point, then the other person took on the thinking. The two of them and their two departments had to come together. The only way that was possible was in an intellectual decision about what they intended to do. But the responsibility did not rest with any one person. If a new placement broke up there was always the very human desire to shift the responsibility for it. Because the responsibility was not held by one person, even the opportunity to learn from what happened in each placement was confused and partly lost. It is interesting to note that placement conferences were held frequently at that time and were attended by as many as five or six workers who had some contact with the case. It seemed that since nobody was continually responsible for the plan and for the child, anybody who had anything to do with it or with him must be consulted—those concerned at all must insure and bolster up the final decision in conference. There was another type of conference, too—a salesman's talk. To this conference the homefinding department came with its mind made up. The homefinders had already decided that this home was for this particular child and conferred only to sell or maneuver their plan on to the department or worker supervising the child.

The procedure sounds vicious here in print, and it was vicious enough in practice. Perhaps at that time the workers were not wise enough or responsible enough to make a placement decision. Yet no intelligent person is unaware of the fact that a decision is being foisted upon her. She can sense the difference between a pretended choice and a real one. Under these circumstances, feelings of anger, of frustration and of humiliation are generated that destroy the vitality of the worker and discourage any eagerness or inclination on her part to be more responsible.

The procedure today is different in spirit and execution. It is much simpler and more direct. A child is studied in the reception department. If received into care he is placed in a temporary foster home. When the reception worker supervising him there is ready, she requests a permanent foster home for him. At this time she is able to give some picture of him. She knows something of his physical condition, his mental ability, his habits, his general behavior and personality. Her request for a home goes to one experienced and skilled person, the supervisor of the homefinding department. It is this person who holds the key position between the two departments, also receiving requests for children from the workers in the homefinding and supervising

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departments. At the time a child is requested there is a picture of the home available through the foster home records.

The initial tentative fitting together of child and home is done by this one person with whom both departments are in contact, but it is the worker who studied the home that is responsible for the afterward, minute consideration of the plan. The child is assigned to her. From the knowledge she gets of him through his record and the case worker, she accepts or refuses him as a possibility for her home. She qualifies her decision by reason. If the supervisor should feel in some circumstances that there can be no choice but that this home has to be used for this child, she is frank in saying so. At times when the worker has been strongly convinced of another plan, she has tried something the supervisor's judgment could not support. The responsibility the worker takes here is greater than if the supervisor agreed with the plan and could naturally give assistance and advice in making and carrying it out. It is interesting to note that events may convince either one of the two persons of the justifiability of the other's opinion.

Though the initial, tentative decision is made by the supervisor of the foster home department at the time when she singles one child out for consideration for the worker's home, the freedom the homefinding and supervising worker has to complete or reject the plan gives her an indubitable sense of responsibility for its creation. She is the one who must do the fine finishing work, who is responsible for discussing the plan in its details if she has any misgivings, and finally it is she who acts on the plan. There is no half and half thinking.

It is at this point that the decentralized plan has varied most from the centralized plan of homefinding. Two workers do not share responsibility, but one has it. The worker studying a home is usually the one to use it. She is responsible for deciding it is a usable home and later responsible for deciding it is a home possible for a particular child. Any mistakes or any successes resulting from her thought or action come back to her. Though at some particular time she might wish a placement had never been made she does not have the disadvantage of being able to shift the responsibility for what happened. She does not have as much need to do so either. Because she was able to embrace the whole plan, she was able to do her best. She could go full speed ahead. She did not have to make reserves in her thinking or energies because another person took over responsibility at a later time. In the past, a worker could have felt guilty, wasteful and apologetic that her best had not come out. Now she feels that it is too bad if her best was not enough at any one point, but it gives an interest to the future also.

The opportunity decentralization gives for the worker to see one part of the agency's job through, to experience in her activities a unit of the agency's work, has made for her growth. For decentralization has seemed to divide the work of the agency into its two most fundamental parts:—receiving children into care and caring for them. One of the steps in the latter, foster home finding, is no longer a whole process in itself, but is a part with the supervision to which it so closely relates. The homefinding worker now experiences the whole latter step. At the same time she is getting a greater sense of the vitality of her own work because of the unity it has of itself, she is growing more alive to the part she is of the whole agency, her feeling of responsibility is extending and her ability is growing.

Perhaps other agencies without a decentralized plan of homefinding have already managed to foster these feelings in the workers of their agency. Different processes and set-ups, or different feelings may have given the workers a sense of functioning as responsible units in the work of the agency. We can only say that at the time our shift in homefinding work was made that shift in process carried the change in feeling. The workers as a whole had been ready to have a larger responsibility, were impatient with the division of it that was cutting off their functioning, and the attachment of the homefinding work to the supervising work was the practical outcome of their development.

Interesting secondary changes have occurred as a result of the new plan. There has been a clearer realization of our purpose as a child-placing agency. We are realizing more and more that the child is our first client and foster parents have their original interest because they may serve his need. We have learned we cannot afford to identify ourselves with the problems a foster parent may bring when he applies. We are too likely to have to do something about them, forgetting the child as our first concern. Once an applicant is the foster parent of our child, however, the extent to which he may become our client at any one time varies. Among child-caring agencies the amount of responsibility each finds it possible to take for the problems of a foster parent "per se" varies with the philosophy and equipment of the agency, but circumstances and practice are re-emphasizing to us that we exist primarily to identify ourselves with and serve the interest of the child.

The type of our foster home study has changed too. It is more informal and free. We have realized that no amount of information, interviewing of references, etc., will reassure us if there is a feeling of doubt about an applicant. We know we are working during the foster home study with a contact that will continue, that is living, and that will undergo changes. We have to conceive of it as an active home. We have noticed

THE CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC.

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The Bulletin is in large measure a Forum for discussion in print of child welfare problems. Endorsement therefor does not necessarily go with the printing of opinions expressed over a signature.—EDITOR.

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that the transfer of both foster homes and children among the workers has been much freer since the department distinctions were removed and the person doing supervising of children is also doing foster home finding. If we do transfer a home for the use of another worker it is directly to a person engaged in the same type of work. The formality of transferring a home from a foster home department to a supervising department is avoided.

With only part time to devote to homefinding and only the pressure to do it which individual responsibility brings, the supply of homes ready for children has more nearly approximated our need for them than it did under the former system. The average number of homes studied and accepted by the individual worker under the decentralized plan has averaged as high as that studied and accepted per month by the homefinding worker doing solely that. Though we do not get so much formal historical material, we do not lose sight of the important fact—why do these people want a child, how will they use a child? Facts are not so much help here, it is the feeling you get. But we no longer feel it necessary or possible to send on a fool-proof study—we know there is none. We are trying only to make a good living guess.—Ruth Karlson, Visitor, Children's Aid Society of Pennsylvania.

COUNTY BOARDS IN ALABAMA

That each county should have the necessary machinery to serve its dependent children and their families is something more than a theory in Alabama. Enough time has elapsed since the enactment of the law permitting the establishment of county child welfare boards to prove their value in terms of human welfare.

The March issue of the Bulletin published by the State Child Welfare Department contains the following reports on county activities which are most significant:

"Interesting reports of various county child welfare board meetings have been received. To know that the county boards are alive and at work is to know that the

child welfare program in Alabama is firmly established and can weather the storms which will inevitably attack it. As Dr. C. C. Carstens, Director of the Child Welfare League of America, has so aptly said: 'The County must have a board of interested and intelligent citizens who will be the directors of the enterprise, the trustees of the county's funds set aside for the work, and the vehicle for creating an understanding of the needs that exist and the best way of meeting them.' The child welfare program in Alabama cannot go forward without interested and active county child welfare boards. Last month the bulletin suggested the board as a publicity agent; many of the reports received have illustrated this fact quite well.

"In Limestone County the idea of having representatives from other counties present at the board meetings has proved successful. In September the board had a luncheon meeting with interested people from Madison, Morgan and Lauderdale Counties invited. Throughout the meeting the responsibility of the board was stressed, and it was concluded that the board and the county worker must share all responsibility. No one person, be she ever so highly trained and competent, can give to the county, when working alone, what she could give the county if there were an active, interested child welfare board working with her and furnishing general leadership in all matters relating to the welfare of children. In January the Limestone County board met with the board of revenue and gave a report of the year's work.

"The child welfare board in Madison County follows a plan of inviting visitors who are representative people in their community to the monthly board meeting. At one meeting the board members volunteered to contact church societies and Sunday School classes in an effort to raise money and clothes to carry on school attendance work. One board member presented to the Commissioner's Court, Act 339, enacted by the 1931 Legislature, which makes it possible for a Court of Commissioners to appropriate money for aid to dependent children in their homes. As a result, \$35 per month was appropriated in addition to the regular board bills for children which the Court pays.

"In Morgan County \$75 per month is appropriated for aid to children under the same act (339). This action was taken through the influence of the child welfare board members and the direction of the county worker.

"From Baldwin County comes the suggestion that regularity of board meetings helps to establish more firmly the welfare program of the county not only in the minds of the board members themselves but in the minds of all the citizens of the county. At each meeting the work of the whole unit is brought before the board. One of the outstanding features in Baldwin County is the Annual Get-together. Bringing the members of the county board and the Emergency Case Committees together helps to unify the work, and to interpret the work to the whole county instead of to a chosen few.

"In Choctaw County the child welfare board members and advisory committee members interpret the conditions of a community to the county worker, making it possible for her to plan her work more definitely and see the county as a unit made up of individuals instead of a conglomerate mass. They report cases which should be studied and assist in making some plan of

adjustment. In this way the county board, with the county worker, comes to an understanding of the existing needs in the county and the best way of meeting them.

"In several counties the child welfare boards meet with the boards of revenue or courts of commissioners, boards of education and members of the county health units. Through this plan the educational, financial and social groups of the county are knit together more closely.

"In Clay County a meeting was recently held to give the people a chance to protest any appropriations that were made by the commissioners. Although it was a rainy, disagreeable day, the courtroom was crowded with representative citizens from each section of the county. When the vote was taken there was not a dissenting vote to the appropriation to child welfare. This, no doubt, was largely due to the interpretation of child welfare work which the board and the county worker have given to the public."

INSTITUTION NEWS

COTTAGE MOTHERS CONFER IN CINCINNATI

From ten southern Ohio counties cottage mothers and other institution workers assembled in Cincinnati for a two-day institute held January 28 and 29. The large attendance of women who are directly in charge of children in institutions made this different from most institutes and conferences and marked it as one of several recent and important steps in the training of cottage mothers for their difficult tasks.

More than 100 cottage mothers and matrons registered at the Institute. From one institution, the Ohio Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans' Home, 40 cottage mothers came for the two days. This institution is at Xenia which is about sixty miles from Cincinnati. At Xenia school teachers relieved the cottage mothers during their two days of absence from the institution.

The subjects discussed presented practical problems in institutional work. These included recreation, nutrition, normal sex development, care of sex delinquents, experiences of children with property and money, values of group life in child training, application of some of the best principles of child care to cottage life, and the treatment of children with behavior problems.

The Cincinnati Social Workers' Club and the Cincinnati Chapter of the American Association of Social Workers joined the Institute at a dinner session addressed by Mr. Leonard W. Mayo of the New York School of Social Work and Mr. Hopkirk of the League staff. Mr. Mayo's subject was, "Are Institutions Contributing to Our General Knowledge of Social Work?" and Mr. Hopkirk spoke on "Recent Improvements in

Institutional Care of Dependent Children." Mr. Mayo spoke at four sessions, providing the leadership and continuity in thought which are essential to an institute. This was doubly important because limitation of the sessions within a two-day period made this more of a conference than an institute.

Dr. John Bayne Ascham, Superintendent of the Children's Home in Cincinnati, was chairman of the General Committee which planned the program of the Institute. Committees on Entertainment, Attendance and Registration were responsible for other plans. The General Protestant Orphans' Home provided the meeting place and a generous share of the entertainment.

NEW EDUCATION FELLOWSHIP

Education and Changing Society is to be the theme of the Sixth World Conference of the *New Education Fellowship* which will be held in Nice, France, next summer. The dates are July 29 to August 12, 1932. Some of the most distinguished educators and publicists in the world will speak at this meeting. Professor Paul Langevin of the College de France is the president of the Conference. The vice-presidents are Dr. C. H. Becker, formerly Minister of Education for Prussia, and Sir Percy Nunn of the University of London. Delegates from all over the world will attend. Representatives from China, Japan, and from Soviet Russia are expected. In America, the work of organizing the American delegation for the Conference is under the auspices of a group of international-minded people from the Progressive Education Association and other organizations, called The American Committee on International Education.

The program will be of special interest to teachers, to parents, to people interested in international affairs, in peace and international understanding, in social and economic conditions. Special pre-conference tours will be arranged for special groups.

Further information can be obtained from Frances Fenton Park, secretary, 425 West 123rd Street, New York City.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES

The League has decided not to hold regional conferences this spring in the Middle West, in New England or in the South. Whether a regional conference will be held in the fall in these areas will be determined later and announcement will be made regarding the decision.

NOTICE TO READERS

Because of unusual delays, this BULLETIN is for February-March. The League will, however, publish ten numbers, as usual, providing one in July.

PER CAPITA COSTS

The League office has been requested several times recently to assist in determining the per capita cost of service to children.

No single method of determining per capita costs can apply to all agencies caring for children away from their own homes. The process is perhaps simplest for an institution without case work or follow-up service. It becomes more complicated when case work service is added for intake and follow-up and is quite complicated when a child-caring organization has institutional as well as foster home facilities.

For the purpose of arousing a desire to determine accurate per capitas and for discussion of methods involved, I am setting down the steps that it is necessary to take in the method we have several times recently suggested for use. This method is based primarily upon making the proportion of salaries that can be allocated to the different departments of an agency the basis for the calculation. It applies to one of the simpler forms of child-caring agencies, namely, a typical children's aid society whose work is divided between two departments—the Department of Advice and Assistance, or as some would call it, the Department of Investigation and Adjustment, and the Department of Child-Placing. The outline of steps to be taken would then be as follows:

(1) Assuming the above classification, allocate salaries as far as they can be definitely allocated to the Department of Advice and Assistance, and find the sum.

(2) Allocate and find the sum of the salaries that can be definitely allocated to the Department of Child-Placing.

(3) Any salaries that cannot be divided between the two departments or cannot be allocated to them should be divided on the basis of the proportion that the salaries of either department are to the whole salary budget and such proportions should then be added to the totals found under (1) and (2).

(4) Allocate the expenses that can be definitely charged to either the Department of Advice and Assistance or to the Department of Child-Placing and add to the sums such part of the expenses as cannot be definitely charged to either department in proportion to the separate totals of salaries in the two departments.

(5) Add the salaries and expenses of the individual departments together to get the total cost of the departments. The sum of these totals should be the total of expenditures during the fiscal year if there are no other departments in the organization.

(6) Find the total number of children served by the Department of Advice and Assistance or the number of families served, if that is preferred, and divide the total cost of the work of the Department of Advice and Assistance by the number of children or the number of

families served. *This is the per capita of the Department of Advice and Assistance.*

(7) Find the sum of all the days of service for all the children in the care of the Department of Child-Placing and divide the total number of days of service by 52 to determine the number of weeks of service.

(8) Divide the total cost of the Department of Child-Placing by the number of weeks of service. *This will give the per capita cost of the Department of Child-Placing.*

In case the children's agency also has a receiving home, a third division would have to be set off for salary allocations in order to get the base of the latter allocations. This would also be true if the agency has protective work as one of its functions or an extensive program of supervision of children in their own homes. If the agency has but few children in free homes it does not seem advisable to make separations in days of service for boarding home care and free home care. This will prove to be necessary when the number of children in free home care approximates or exceeds those in boarding home care.

Executives of League member agencies and others interested are invited to criticize the above method and to suggest better ways of determining per capita costs.
—C. C. CARSTENS.

LENGTH OF VACATIONS

The League recently sent out a questionnaire asking for information regarding the length of vacations now in vogue and the length of sick leave permitted while the worker is still in the pay of the organization. From the 107 members who responded have come the following replies:

Number of Organizations Reporting	Length of Vacations Granted
107.....	Total
8.....	5 weeks
46.....	1 month
24.....	4 weeks
7.....	3 weeks
18.....	2 weeks
4.....	Other

If the number giving four weeks is added to the number providing one month, it is clear that approximately one month is generally accepted as the vacation period.

These figures relate only to the social staff and are the basic allowances for vacation after one year's service. Many organizations make no difference between vacations on one year's service and on longer service. A number, however, that give only two weeks' vacation on one year's service increase the vacation for longer service.

Three of the agencies reporting provide vacations as follows: for the first year's service—1 week; for any period up to two years—2 weeks; service up to three years—3 weeks; service up to four years and over—4 weeks. The eight agencies that provide five weeks' vaca-

tion are all located in Massachusetts and provide four weeks in the summer and one week in the spring or winter.

The clerical staff in many instances receives from one to two weeks shorter vacations than the social staff, although there are a number of agencies that provide as much vacation for the clerical staff as for the social staff, especially those providing less than four weeks for the social staff.

An analysis of the replies on sick leave granted will be printed in a later issue of the BULLETIN.

CHILDREN UNDER SIXTEEN TRAVELING ALONE

During the past year the National Association of Travelers' Aid Societies has made an extensive study of the number of children that travel from one place to another under the auspices of the various local units of that organization, of the reasons for such travel and the ways in which adequate protection can be given to the young travelers.

Reports have been made to the National office with reference to the service rendered to approximately 15,550 different children in one year. This is not the total number of young travelers in the year, but represents a very considerable segment of them. It is interesting to note that 8,146, or more than one-half of the children, were between the ages of six and twelve and 503 were under the age of six. 13,594 of these young travelers were dealt with for the first time but 1,406 had evidently developed the habit, as they had previously been known. Of the total number, 12,924 traveled by railroad, 1,122 by bus, and the rest by automobile, steamship and in other ways, three of them traveling by airplane. It is also interesting to note that the society dealt with 233 who could use no better method of locomotion than hitch-hiking.

During the year studied, 8,178 of the young travelers were on the way for a pleasure trip. That number, we are informed, has been very much reduced. They are now more likely to be on the way for the purpose of receiving care from relatives who are helping to take care of them. Even last year 2,912 were going to another place because their homes had been broken up. 1,402 children were on their way to school.

One of the important services of the travelers' aid society is to deal with runaway children. In the year studied 669 runaways were included in its service and of this number, 144 were stopped short of their destination and escorted back to their homes while 106 who found themselves in a strange city and asked for help were returned home.

One of the striking features in connection with the National Association of Travelers' Aid Societies is the close cooperation it has been able to establish with the

various railroad and other transportation companies so that actually the transportation officials discovered more clients who needed service than any other single source.

The National Association of Travelers' Aid Societies which has gathered so much interesting and valuable information has, however, only just begun to study its services to young travelers. Children's aid societies and other children's agencies play an important part in the program and are becoming increasingly the outlets of service for plans which have been initiated and at least in part carried through by the travelers' aid societies.

BOOK REVIEW

COMMUNITY PLANNING FOR HOMELESS MEN AND BOYS. Robert S. Wilson. Published by: Family Welfare Association of America, 130 East 22nd Street, New York, N. Y. Single copies 50 cents; in quantity, 10 copies 40 cents each; 25 copies 36 cents each.

Mr. Wilson's book is an illuminating and concrete piece of research exploring the experiences of sixteen American cities in planning for the care of their homeless men and footloose youngsters—patrons of the "open road." The study covers the winter of 1930-31 but it is more than a fact-finding work for a given period because of its long view into another winter to follow and other winters to come. The cities chosen for the study varied in size and type from a rural farming community to congested Chicago with its approach to three and a half million people. Each community is presented by the "case" method with the statement of the situation, the history and background, the process of treatment and the result. Based upon discovery of certain concrete principles in the experiment, each community looked ahead into another winter and made plans which would give more effective service to the transient and greater protection to the community in whose midst he chanced to be. The purpose of the study reaches beyond the statement of fact as to important policies, procedures and findings. In its attempt to learn the "who" and the "why" of the homeless man, it emphasizes attention to the needs of the person swinging away from a mass consideration to the human yet scientific approach through individualizing his need. It indicates a hopeful trend in community thinking. Certainly it turns from the heretofore dark aspects of the homeless man toward the light of community understanding. The book, while written for social workers and others closely associated with the problem of the homeless, could teach a vital truth to the layman who all too frequently sees only the man in the street and in no relation to the community's responsibility for him.

—CORA M. ROWZEE, Family Welfare Society,
Charleston, West Virginia.

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC.

Financial Statement

For the fiscal year Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1931

RECEIPTS		
	1931	1930
2. Russell Sage Foundation.....	\$7,500.00	\$10,000.00
3. Payments for Services.....	8,000.00	16,125.82
4. Dues.....	3,199.75	3,293.75
5. Quota and Contributions.....	20,181.47	19,862.03
6. Publications.....	1,726.25	2,121.51
7. Miscellaneous.....	31.78	53.89
TOTAL CURRENT RECEIPTS.....	\$40,639.25	\$51,457.00
9. Non-Support.....	375.11	1,050.89
Returned check received.....	10.00	..
Refunds.....	470.93	343.66
Balance on hand first of period.....	159.89	815.88
	\$41,655.18	\$53,667.43
EXPENDITURES		
<i>Salaries—</i>		
1. Salaries—Professional Staff.....	\$23,543.54	\$26,691.15
3. Salaries—Clerical Staff.....	9,527.62	9,187.85
<i>Office Expense—</i>		
5. Telephone and Telegraph.....	421.13	538.36
6. Stationery, Forms, etc.....	270.64	1,339.83
7. Office Equipment.....	118.08	510.79
7A. Postage.....	613.85	517.97
<i>Educational Work—</i>		
8-9-10 Printing and Multigraphing.....	789.94	2,059.21
11. Library.....	34.29	64.46
<i>Travel and Maintenance—</i>		
12. Regular.....	4,915.61	10,937.03
13A. Post Survey.....	..	20.90
<i>Miscellaneous—</i>		
19. Miscellaneous.....	332.35	489.00
TOTAL CURRENT EXPENDITURES.....	\$40,567.05	\$52,356.55
Non-Support.....	375.11	1,050.99
Refunds and Revolving Fund.....	126.40	100.00
Check returned.....	11.00	..
Balance on hand end of period.....	575.62	159.89
	\$41,655.18	\$53,667.43

PAUL T. BEISSER
Treasurer

DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS

The League has just published the tenth edition of the Directory of Members which has been sent free of cost to each one of our member agencies.

On Page 2 of the directory there is found a statement of the agreement regarding inter-society correspondence between members. This service many of our members consider worth not only the cost of membership but also the maximum amount of the quota contribution asked. In several instances contributions from public agencies have been authorized because of the fact that through this National agreement service is guaranteed to our members to the extent of the terms of the Articles of Agreement.

Many children's agencies which are not members of the League use the Directory of Members for the purpose of obtaining inter-society service by investigation and correspondence. This office is not averse to having our members render such service if they are in a position to assume such additional responsibility. We would

urge, however, that in accordance with the terms of the inter-society agreement preference necessarily must be given to those requests that come from agencies within our membership. If because of the large area in which a certain organization is working or because of other reasons the volume of inter-society service becomes so heavy that the organization is not able to undertake it on the basis of the agreements entered into, we would ask the agency to communicate with this office for the purpose of making an adjustment of territory and making a new announcement to our membership.

PHOTOGRAPHS—USE AND MISUSE

A dilemma arises out of the use of children's pictures in social work publicity. It grows out of the same impulse which makes people smile at babies on street cars and loosen their purse strings in answer to appeals for funds adorned with an attractive child's picture. That there are certain photographs available to all agencies, particularly winning ones, is the basis of the problem, although the actual dilemma is created by the copy that accompanies the picture. On this point the highly informative News Bulletin of the Social Work Publicity Council had a pertinent paragraph or two in its December issue:

"If the pictures of children are bought or borrowed from another source, isn't there an added responsibility to word the titles so as to make clear that children like these, but not these particular children, are cared for by the agency? When the organization claims the pictured children as its own, a whole train of insincerities is set going. The magnetic appeal of the child brings in requests for adoption or a desire to do something for that particular child. At this point evasions begin. On the other hand, a photograph may have the same value as a painting in interpreting the needs and the appeal of childhood. A given agency does not have to claim the child for its own. The value of the picture lies in touching off the natural human desire to protect all children."

Dilemmas of social agencies in their relations with the public is to be the subject of one of the meetings of the Social Work Publicity Council at the Annual Conference at Philadelphia. The Council, a national organization with headquarters at 130 East 22nd Street, New York, is an informally organized clearing house of information and ideas on publicity methods. It welcomes to membership all social workers whose job, or part of it, is to give their organization's message to the public.

ENCLOSURES

(Sent to members only)

COURIER. Church Home Society, Boston. Issue No. 14, March, 1932.

Printed announcement concerning the National Conference of Social Work.